



COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON 25

B-133200

May 29, 1959

Honorable Paul J. Kilday, Chairman
Special Subcommittee, Central Intelligence Agency
Committee on Armed Services
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On May 15, 1959, Mr. A. I. Samulson, Director of our Civil Accounting and Auditing Division, attended an executive meeting of your Subcommittee to discuss our audit responsibilities and activities at Central Intelligence Agency. At the conclusion of this meeting, it was suggested that recommendations be submitted for the future audit activities by the General Accounting Office at this Agency.

Following the enactment of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, the then Director of the Agency requested that notwithstanding the very broad and unusual powers granted to the Central Intelligence Agency by the Act an audit of expenditures at the site, as previously performed by the General Accounting Office, be continued. Accordingly, the General Accounting Office has continued to make audits of vouchered expenditures, under the same arrangements that were in effect with the predecessor Central Intelligence Group. However, in view of the provisions of section 10 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act, no exceptions have been taken to any expenditures. In those cases where questionable payments come to our attention, we refer the cases to the CIA Comptroller's Office for corrective action. In using the term questionable payments, we mean any expenditures which, except for section 10 (a) of the Act, would appear to be improper or illegal either under law or under the decisions of the Comptroller General. In our audit work, we have not made a substantive review of Agency policies, nor of its practices and procedures, and we have made no audit of expenditures of unvouchered funds.

Since the enactment of Central Intelligence legislation, we have generally broadened the type of audit we make of the activities of most Government agencies. Under our comprehensive audit approach, our basic purpose is to review and evaluate the manner in which the agency or activity under audit carries out its financial responsibilities. We construe financial responsibilities as including the expenditure of funds and the utilization of property and personnel in the furtherance only of authorized programs or activities in an effective, efficient, and economical manner. In carrying out this kind of an

Document No.

Review of this document by CIA has determined that

☒ CIA has no objection to declass

☐ It contains information of CIA interest that must remain

☐ It contains nothing of CIA interest

Date 24-3-81 Authority: HR 70-2

audit, we examine the organization structure and review the established agency policies for conformity with legislative intent and applicability to agency activities. We also examine agency practices and procedures followed in carrying out the agency policies and make selective examinations of actual transactions as a means of appraising the application of agency practices and procedures. Reports on the results of our work are submitted to the Congress and to agency management officials.

We believe that a broader type of audit is appropriate for our work at Central Intelligence Agency and is more likely to be productive of evaluations of the administrative functions which would be helpful to the Congress and the Agency Director. We have accordingly concluded that it would be desirable to expand our audit work at Central Intelligence Agency more in line with our regular comprehensive audit approach. The expanded work would include an examination of vouchered expenditures, and, at the outset, the controls and procedures used in processing un-vouchered expenditures. Also we would propose to make a limited examination of the support for un-vouchered expenditures in accordance with such agreement as to access as can be worked out between CIA and GAO Office. As indicated by the preceding comments we have heretofore carried out only limited audit work at CIA, and we do not believe such limited work should be continued.

At this time we do not recommend any change in section 10 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act. We believe, however, that your Subcommittee could be very helpful in effecting a change in the scope of our audit work at CIA by advising the Agency of your interest in broadening the audit performed by the General Accounting Office. Any broadening of our audit activities should not include an evaluation of the intelligence activities of the Agency.

We are prepared to discuss this matter further at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph Campbell

Comptroller General
of the United States